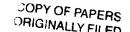
## MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

## **United States Patent Application**



## COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my

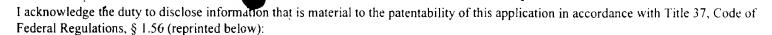
name that			
I verily believe I are named below) of the su CONNECTOR FOR DIST	ibject matter which is claimed and for	r (if only one name is listed be r which a patent is sought on the	elow) or a joint inventor (if plural inventon the invention entitled: INPUT POWER
PCT-filed application) des	-3, 2001, as Attorney Docket No. 231 cribed and claimed in international no olicit a United States patent.		d on (if applicable) (in the case of nended on (if any), which I have
I hereby state that I have reany amendment referred to		of the above-identified specific	cation, including the claims, as amended
certificate listed below and that of the application on the application on the action of the applications as \( \subseteq \) no such applications	have also identified below any foreigne basis of which priority is claimed:	tates Code, § 119/365 of any fagn application for patent or inv	oreign application(s) for patent or inventor entor's certificate having a filing date be
	FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY	. CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER	35 USC 8 119
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)
Al	L FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY,	FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY	APPLICATION(S)
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)
I hereby claim the benefit to below and, insofar as the st	under Title 35, United States Code, § ubject matter of each of the claims of	120/365 of any United States a	and PCT international application(s) listed

defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (Day, Month, Year)



## § 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

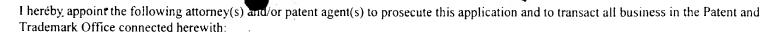
- (a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:
  - (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
  - (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim;

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- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
  - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
  - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
  - (1) Each inventor named in the application:
  - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.
- (e) In any continuation-in-part application, the duty under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.



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Ali, M. Jeffer	Reg. No. 46,359	Liepa, Mara E.	Reg. No. 40,066
Altera, Allan G.	Reg. No. 40,274	Lindquist, Timothy A.	Reg. No. 40,701
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Batzli, Brian H.	Reg. No. 32,960	Mayfield, Denise L.	Reg. No. 33,732
Beard, John L.	Reg. No. 27,612	McDonald, Daniel W.	Reg. No. 32,044
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Larson, James A.	Reg. No. 40,443		

I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/ organization who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Merchant & Gould P.C. to the contrary.

I understand that the execution of this document, and the grant of a power of attorney, does not in itself establish an attorney-client relationship between the undersigned and the law firm Merchant & Gould P.C., or any of its attorneys.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to Merchant & Gould P.C. at the address indicated below:

Merchant & Gould P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903



I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

	Full Name	Family Name	First Given Name		Second Given Name	
2	Of Inventor	SCHOMAKER	DAVID		E.	
0	Residence	City	State or Foreign Country		Country of Citizenship	
	& Citizenship	LINO LAKES	MINNESOTA		USA	
1	Mailing	Address	City		State & Zip Code/Country	
	Address	163 WHITE PINE ROAD	163 WHITE PINE ROAD? LINO LAKES		MINNESOTA/USA	
Signature of Inventor 201: Date: /C//				0/18/2001		
	Fult Name	Family Name	First Given Name		Second Given Name	
2	Of Inventor	NGO	TUAN			
0	Residence	City	State or Foreign Country		Country of Citizenship	
	& Citizenship	MAPLE GROVE	City		USA	
2	Mailing	Address			State & Zip Code/Country	
	Address	12461 63RD AVENUE NORTH			MINNESOTA/USA	
Sign	ature of Inventor 2	02: N Colwar Etro		Date:	10/18/01	
	Full Name	Family Name	First Given Name		Second Given Name	
2	Of Inventor	CABRERA	CARLOS			
0	Residence	City	State or Foreign Country		Country of Citizenship	
	& Citizenship	CIUDAD JUAREZ	CHIHUAHUA		MEXICO	
3	Mailing	Address C.C. ALVAREZ	City		State & Zip Code/Country	
	Address	AGUSTIN ALVERZE #949, FRACC, JARDINES DEL	CIUDAD JUAREZ		CHIHUAHUA 32563/MEXICO	
		VALLE				
Sign	Signature of Inventor 203:				-Nov-01	